

March 15, 2004

Project 184 Weekly Update
Website: www.project184.org

Our New Toll Free Project 184 information number is now working. **The new number is 1-(866)-776-5184 or 1-(866)-project184.**

Summary of Environmental Planning and Compliance Activities
For Project 184
Week Ending March 12, 2004

Lake Aloha Dam Maintenance and Telemetry Station Project

JRP provided its preliminary draft report on the National Register of Historic Places eligibility evaluation of the Lake Aloha main dam and auxiliary dams as required by the Historic Properties Management Plan for Project 184 Relicensing. The District and EN2 Resources will review the draft report, which concludes the dams are not eligible, and then submit the final report along with an Archaeological Resources assessment report to the State Office of Historic Preservation and U. S. Forest Service as part of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation process.

As a follow-up action to the District's Project team meeting on March 3, an updated project schedule was prepared and submitted to the District Project Engineer (J. Eymann) for review. The project remains on schedule with pre-construction rodent and vegetation treatment scheduled for August and dam repairs and telemetry installation in September.

Powerhouse Exterior Painting Project

District and EN2 Resources investigated several issues regarding the proposed exterior painting project, with a memorandum submitted to the District on March 12 summarizing the anticipated environmental and regulatory issues to be addressed. Issues to be resolved include: the methods to ensure 100 percent containment of wash water and paint removal; USFS input on color selection given the proximity of unevaluated historic features; and, measures to minimize effects on special-status bat species using the powerhouse walls for day roosting.

Mill to Bull Tunnel

The District transmitted a second letter to R. Kanz of the SWRCB regarding his January 15 inquiry on the schedule of remaining actions for the project. This response letter forwarded copies of as-built drawings for the tunnel, Canal Bench Restoration Project, and Alder spoils handling area restoration, and also described the status of remaining actions including the bore hole, Bull Portal Spillway 20, and SCADA alarm system.

EN2 Resources coordinated with KDH Environmental to schedule spotted owl surveys for PAC ED045 in the vicinity of the Bull Portal where Spillway 20 will be reconstructed

beginning this summer. EN2 Resources continued work on the Project Description and CEQA Initial Study for the Spillway 20 Reconstruction Project, and worked with the District on several construction methods and design issues that need to be addressed before the documents can be completed. The District and Owen Engineering are expected to provide the needed input early next week so that the CEQA documentation can be completed and then approved by the District for public and agency review.

Project 184 Relicensing Support

The District and USFS have rescheduled a coordination meeting from March 15 to March 31 to discuss Relicensing Settlement Agreement, District Capital Improvement Program, and Mill to Bull Tunnel Project completion activities and priorities.

SPI Plum Creek Staging Area SWPPP Maintenance

District Camp 5 staff began replacing and improving SWPPP BMPs at the Plum Creek staging area based on poor performance of the existing SWPPP BMPs during this past winter. The improvements to the BMPs include installing larger diameter straw wattles, reorienting the layout of the wattles, and re-grading and placement of 6-12 inch rock in the main drainage area to reduce erosion and better contain sediment.

Mill Creek Diversion Modification Project (Bore Hole)

District staff met on March 10 to discuss the potential methods, feasibility and environmental considerations of drilling the bore hole from Mill Creek downward to the Mill to Bull Tunnel, versus the currently proposed drilling of the bore hole from the Mill to Bull Tunnel upward to Mill Creek. Reconsideration of the construction methods is partly in response to comments from R. Kanz of the SWRCB on the District's CEQA Initial Study that the District should reconsider the Mill Creek downward drilling method. If revised to Mill Creek downward drilling, the District will need to address several environmental and worker safety issues associated with working in the narrow canyon over the creek with the drilling equipment.

2004 Project 184 Planned CIP Projects:

- Hazel Creek Tunnel
- Lake Aloha Telemetry/Dam Repairs
- Spillway 20
- Camp 2 Shortcut Road
- Silver Lake Spillway Automation
- Echo Lake Outlet Valve Automation/Spillway Valve
- Slide Repairs Flume 6&7, and Camp 2 Road
- Special Use Permit/ Road Work
- New Canal SCADA Alarms
- Install Weather Station (2)
- Replace Flume 52
- Rebuild Spillway Chutes
- Engineering For Flumes 31, 49-50 Concrete Flume

- Engineering Echo Conduit and Tunnel Repairs
- Replacement of Deer Fencing Beat one
- Fence Camp 5

Ecological Resources Committee meeting planned for April 27th, 2004 Meeting

EID held is scheduled ERC meeting on February 17th. The next ERC meeting is scheduled for April 27, at 0900. Final meeting minutes will be circulated to all parties this week.

***Akin Powerhouse Water Quality Monitoring**

The final water quality monitoring events were performed on December 17 and 19 upstream and downstream of the Akin Powerhouse. The monitoring began in mid-October and was performed an average of once per week to assess potential changes in water quality during a wide range of start-up and testing procedures for the powerhouse. Results indicate that Akin Powerhouse operations had negligible effects on South Fork American River water quality conditions during the monitoring periods.

SWPPP measures are in place and inspections are being performed as required.

***Powerhouse Update:**

EID is operating the powerhouse between 18 to 20mw. Currently we are operating both units 24 hours a day, while we perform further efficiency testing.

***Canal**

The flows in the canal are being regulated by A-12 requirements for minimum fish flows. Fish life this month per the settlement agreement is 110cfs at A-12, beginning March 1st. Current flows in canal are ranging between 135-145cfs. The canal is being patrolled on a daily basis and there have been no major problems found which would prevent the canal to be filled to its capacity. SCADA is being manned 24 hours a day to insure the reliable and safe operation of the canal. Further automation of the Diversion Structure is planned to control A-12 (Fish Release's) and A-11 (canal flows).

EID is continually working on its automation to control the Diversion Structure at the intake to regulate the float controller to allow EID to satisfy the A-12 minimum flow requirements and place balance of water in the canal at A-11. This will allow EID to operate with much tighter flows, maximizing generation production. Mead & Hunt continues to provide engineering support on the remaining tasks to be completed at intake.

It was determined by Carlton Engineering that additional vertical drilling would need to be done on the Canal Bench to measure water levels with in the berm on slide 6 & 7. This will be accomplished using a small hand held unit. The additional drilling was completed February 10 along with SWPPP.

EID is in the preliminary stages of beginning work on the Hazel Creek Tunnel. Access road and site clearing is scheduled to begin February 9, 2004, with burning of brush

scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2004. This project is expected to be in progress between February 9 through October 31, 2004, at which time EID expects to be completed.

The District is currently looking at possible movement of a large rock mass next to and above the Bridge on the Camp #2 road, it may be necessary to stabilize the rock before it impacts the Bridge.

EID has received all its project signs and will be installing these new EID signs throughout our Project 184. The lakes will receive new signage this spring when the snow melts. Ice warning signs have been posted at Lakes to warn fisherman of changing lake levels.

Tributary flows:

Esmeralda and Ogilby are not being utilized in canal, as of this report; however if bypass flows are above minimums EID will utilize the water as needed.

Echo Lake

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized.

Caples Lake

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized. ICE warning sign have been posted at lakes, warning fisherman of changing lake levels. EID plans to draw Caples Lake down as required to prevent early spill. Planned releases for Caples creek this week are 18cfs due to increased runoff.

Silver Lake

The radial gates are in the full open position and will remain this way From November 1 to April 1 inclusive. Facilities have been winterized.

Lake Aloha

Lake Aloha is shut down for the winter, which is the normal operating pattern.

A visit was made October 29, 2003 to Lake Aloha.

Staff 5.64 = 29.5 AF

A trip was made to Echo Lake on March 5, everything appears to be normal.

Listed below are the Projects readings for March 15, 2004

Taken from SCADA:

	Staff	Ac. Ft.	Draft
Echo Lake	0	0	0
Echo Conduit	0	0	0
Echo Creek	1.77		19.7 cfs.

Caples Lake	37.52	9,226	18 cfs.
Silver Lake	5.05	1,384	5.6 cfs.
Pyramid Creek	2.41	0	38.38cfs.

There is 144.2cfs @ A-11 being released into the canal at Intake and 439.5 cfs. Flowing in the South Fork of the American River below Intake.

A-17 Forebay Storage $3796.49 = 282$ AF

A-18 EID Irrigation Usage is $.64 = 10.05$ cfs.

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